



## STQA-Session 9

# Black Box Testing (3)

## Decision Table

chengbaolei@suda.edu.cn

# Black Box Testing Techniques

- Boundary Value Analysis
- Equivalence Partitioning
- Decision Table ✓
- Cause-Effect Graph
- Combinatorial Test



# Black Box Testing Techniques

- Review
  - Boundary Value Analysis
  - Equivalence Partitioning



# Decision Table

A black-box test design technique in which test cases are designed to execute the combinations of inputs.

Decision table is good for representing and analyzing complex logical relationships.

# Decision Table Template



# Decision Table

Limited entry decision table: All the conditions are binary

Extended entry decision table: Conditions are allowed to have several values

Mixed entry decision table

# Limited Entry Decision Tables

Don't care: the condition is irrelevant,  
or the condition does not apply

Rules	1	2	3-4	5	6	7-8
c1	T	T	T	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	T	T	F
c3	T	F	—	T	F	—
a1	X	X		X		
a2	X				X	
a3		X		X		
a4			X			X

**Condition:** input/equivalence class of input

**Action:** output/major functional processing portions  
of the item tested

# Extended Entry Decision Tables

		Rules	1	2	3
Condition	c1	0-10	0-10	10-100	
	c2	<5	5	>5	
Action	a1	DoX	DoX	DoY	
	a2	DoA	DoB	DoC	

# Mixed Entry Decision Tables

Cutting Machines		R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8
C1	Turning diameter	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$	$D \leq 200$	$200 < D \leq 500$
C2	Turning length	$L \leq 1000$	$L \leq 1000$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$	$L \leq 1000$	$L \leq 1000$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$	$1000 < L \leq 1500$
C3	Milling needed	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
A1	Machine 4711	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
A2	Machine 4712	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-
A3	Machine 4713	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
A4	Machine 4714	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-

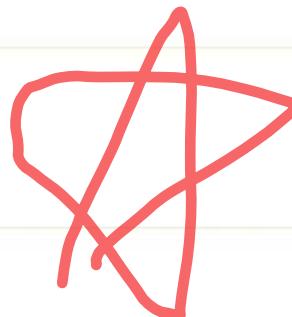
1  
2  
3

# How to Make a Decision Table?

1. List all condition stubs and action stubs
2. Fill the condition items.
3. Fill the action items, make a initial table
4. Decision Table Verification

# Decision Table Verification

- Completeness
- Combining
- Redundancy
- Inconsistency



# Completeness of decision table

The decision table should contain every combination of Predicate values

For limited entry decision tables, if  $n$  conditions exist, there must be  $2^n$  rules.

When *don't care* entries really indicate that the condition is irrelevant, we can develop a rule count as follows:

- rules in which no don't care entries occur count as one rule
- each don't care entry in a rule **doubles** the count of that rule.

What about extended entry decision tables?

# Combining rules in Decision table

Consider the following decision table:

Rules	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
c1	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c3	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
a1			X	X			X	X
a2	X	X			X			
a3			X	X			X	X
a4					X			

Multiple rules may be combined when multiple rules with  
the same condition and same outcome

similar

Which rule(s) may be combined?



Y	Y
N	N
Y	N
X	X



Y
N
-
X

Rules	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
c1	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c3	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
a1				X	X		X	X
a2	X	X			X			
a3				X	X		X	X
a4						X		

Rules	1	2	3-4	5	6	7-8
c1	T	T	T	F	F	F
c2	T	T	F	T	T	F
c3	T	F	-	T	F	-
a1			X			X
a2	X	X		X		
a3			X			X
a4					X	

Rules	1-2	3-4, 7-8	5	6
c1	T	-	F	F
c2	T	F	T	T
c3	-	-	T	F
a1		X		
a2	X		X	
a3		X		
a4				X

Check completeness

Other Contracted Decision Table?

Y	Y
-	N
N	N
X	X



Y
-
N
X

# Redundant Decision Table

~~(X)~~

stub	1-4	5	6	7	8	9
c1	T	F	F	F	F	T
c2	-	T	T	F	F	F
c3	-	T	F	T	F	F
a1	X	X	X	-	-	X
a2	-	X	X	X	-	-
a3	X	-	X	X	X	X

What is the redundancy in this decision table?

~~B~~ ~~A~~ ~~C~~

# Inconsistent Decision Table

Every combination of predicate truth values results in only one action or set of actions

Stub	1-4	5	6	7	8	9
c1	T	F	F	F	F	T
c2	—	T	T	F	F	F
c3	—	T	F	T	F	F
a1	X	X	X	—	—	—
a2	—	X	X	X	—	X
a3	X	—	X	X	X	—

What is the problem of this decision table?

# 规则合并实例——“阅读指南”决策表

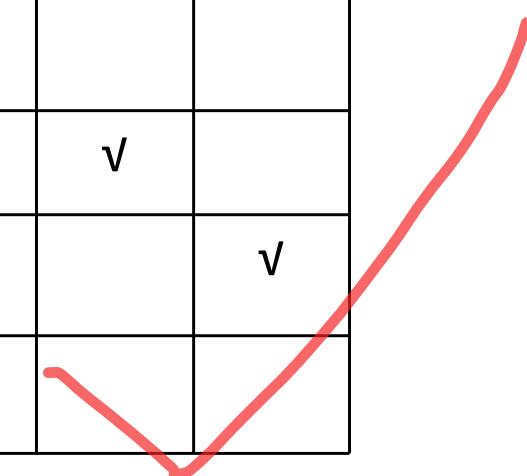
规则		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
选项									
问题	你觉得疲倦吗？	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗？	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N
	书中内容使你糊涂吗？	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
建议	请回到本章开头重读					✓			
	继续读下去						✓		
	跳到下一章去读							✓	✓
	停止阅读，请休息	✓	✓	✓	✓				

# 规则合并实例——“阅读指南”决策表

规则 选项		1	3	5	6	7
问题	你觉得疲倦吗？	Y	Y	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗？	Y	N	Y	Y	N
	书中内容使你胡涂吗？	—	—	Y	N	—
建议	请回到本章开头重读			✓		
	继续读下去				✓	
	跳到下一章去读					✓
	停止阅读，请休息	✓	✓			

# 规则合并实例——“阅读指南”决策表

规则选项		1	5	6	7
问题	你觉得疲倦吗？	Y	N	N	N
	你对内容感兴趣吗？	—	Y	Y	N
	书中内容使你胡涂吗？	—	Y	N	—
建议	请回到本章开头重读		✓		
	继续读下去			✓	
	跳到下一章去读				✓
	停止阅读，请休息	✓		✓	



# How to Make a Decision Table?

1. List all condition stubs and action stubs
2. Fill the condition items.
3. Fill the action items, make a initial table
4. Decision Table Verification
  - Completeness
  - Combining
  - Redundancy
  - Inconsistence



# Examples

- Triangle problem
- NextDate problem

# Decision Table for the Triangle Problem

Based on EP results

Don't care entries

How many rules?

Stub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
c1: a, b, c form a triangle?	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c2: a = b?	—	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c3: a = c?	—	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c4: b = c?	—	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
a1: Not a Triangle	X								
a2: Scalene								X	
a3: Isosceles					X		X	X	
a4: Equilateral		X							
a5: Impossible			X	X	X				

Impossible rule

Infeasible equivalence class

# Decision Table for the Triangle Problem (Refined version with rule count)

Stub	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
c1: $a < b + c?$	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c2: $b < a + c?$	—	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c3: $c < a + b?$	—	—	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
c4: $a = b?$	—	—	—	T	T	T	T	F	F	F	F
c5: $a = c?$	—	—	—	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
c6: $b = c?$	—	—	—	T	F	T	F	T	F	T	F
Rule Count	32	16	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
a1: Not a Triangle	X	X	X								
a2: Scalene											X
a3: Isosceles							X	X	X		
a4: Equilateral				X							
a5: Impossible					X	X	X				

# Test Cases for the triangle problem

Case ID	a	b	c	Expected Output
DT1	4	1	2	Not a Triangle
DT2	1	4	2	Not a Triangle
DT3	1	2	4	Not a Triangle
DT4	5	5	5	Equilateral
DT5 ✓	?	?	?	Impossible
DT6 ✓	?	?	?	Impossible
DT7	2	2	3	Isosceles
DT8 ✓	?	?	?	Impossible
DT9	2	3	2	Isosceles
DT10	3	2	2	Isosceles
DT11	3	4	5	Scalene

DT5, DT6, DT8 are infeasible ECs

# 一个简单的练习

- 某公司的对客户分类标准如下：
  - 顾客每次订货额在 1000 元以上（含 1000 元），信誉好的，订单设“优先”标志；信誉不好，但是老客户的，订单设“优先”标志；信誉不好，但是新客户的，订单设“正常”标志；
  - 每次订货额在 1000 元以下，订单设“正常”标志。
- 请绘制相应的决策表。

# 一个简单的练习

	1	2	3	4
C1:订货额 $\geq 1000$ ?	T	T	T	F
C2: 信誉好?	T	F	F	-
C3: 老客户?	-	T	F	-
# rules	2	1	1	4
A1: 订单设“优先”标志	X	X		
A2: 订单设“正常”标志			X	X

# NextDate Input Equivalence Classes

- M1 = { month: month has 30 days}
- M2 = { month: month has 31 days}
- M3 = { month: month is February}
- D1 = {day:  $1 \leq \text{day} \leq 28$ }
- D2={day: day=29}
- D3={day: day=30}
- D4={day: day=31}
- Y1={year: leap year} ;
- Y2={year: not leap year}.

# NextDate Output Equivalence Classes

- A1: impossible day
- A2: incremented day value
- A3: date reset
- A4: incremented month value
- A5: month reset
- A6: incremented year value

# Limited Entry Decision Table

Condition				
C1: Is month in M1?	T			
C2: Is month in M2?		T		
C3: Is month in M3?			T	
C4: Is date in D1?				
C5: Is date in D2?				
C6: Is date in D3?				
C7: Is date in D4?				
C8: Is year in Y1?				
A1: possible				
A2: NextDate				

256 rules

Second trying: extended entry decision table +  
considering leap year 2000

- Equivalent class set

M1={Month: 30 days}

M2={Month: 31 days}

M3={Month: February}

D1={Date: 1<=Date<=28}

D2={Date: Date=29}

D3={Date: Date=30}

D4={Date: Date=31}

Y1={Year: year=2000}

Y2={Year: is leap year and !=2000}

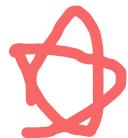
Y3={Year: is not leap year}

# Second trying

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C1: month	M1	M1	M1	M1	M2	M2	M2	M2
C2: date	D1	D2	D3	D4	D1	D2	D3	D4
C3: year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
# rules	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
A1:impossible				X				
A2:date++	X	X		X	X	X	X	
A3:date reset			X					X
A4:month++			X					?
A5:month reset								?
A6:year++								?

Extended entry decision table

$3*4*3=36$ rules



# Second trying (continued)

	9	10	11	12	13	15	15	16
C1: month	M3							
C2: date	D1	D1	D1	D2	D2	D2	D3	D4
C3: year	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y1	Y2	Y3	-	-
# rules	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
A1:impossible						X	X	X
A2:date++	X	X						
A3:date reset			X	X	X			
A4:month++			X	X	X			
A5:month reset								
A6:year++								

## Third trying: consider date and month

- Equivalent class set

M1={Month: 30 days}

M2={Month: 31 days, except December}

M3={Month: December}

M4={Month: February}

D1={Date: 1<=Date<=27}

D2= {Date: Date=28}

D3={Date: Date=29}

D4={Date: Date=30}

D5={Date: Date=31}

Y1={Year: is leap year}

Y2={Year: is not leap year}

4 5 2

40

How many rules?

# Decision Table for NextDate

20

# Decision Table for NextDate (continued)

1
2
2
1
4

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
c1: 月在	M3	M3	M3	M3	M3	M4						
c2: 日在	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D1	D2	D2	D3	D3	D4	D5
C3: 年在	—				—	—	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	—	—
动作												
a1: 不可能										X	X	X
a2: 日增1	X	X	X	X		X	X					
a3: 日复位					X			X	X			
a4: 月增1								X	X			
a5: 月复位					X							
a6: 年增1					X							

# Simplified Decision Table for NextDate

	1-3	4	5	6-9	10
c1: 月份在	M1	M1	M1	M2	M2
c2: 日期在	D1, D2, D3	D4	D5	D1, D2, D3, D4	D5
c3: 年在	-	-	-	-	-
动作					
a1: 不可能			X		
a2: 日期增1	X			X	
a3: 日期复位		X			X
a4: 月份增1		X			X
a5: 月份复位					
a6: 年增1					



# Simplified Decision Table for NextDate (continued)

	11 - 14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 - 22
c1: 月份在	M3	M3	M4	M4	M4	M4	M4	M4
c2: 日期在	D1, D2, D3, D4	D5	D1	D2	D2	D3	D3	D4, D5
C3: 年在	—	—	—	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	—
动作								
a1: 不可能						X	X	
a2: 日期增 1	X		X	X				
a3: 日期复位		X			X	X		
a4: 月份增 1					X	X		
a5: 月份复位		X						
a6: 年增 1		X						

✓

# 13 Test cases of NextDate



用例 ID	月份	日期	年	预期输出
1—3	4	15	2001	2001 年 4 月 16 日
4	4	30	2001	2001 年 5 月 1 日
5	4	31	2001	不可能
6—9	1	15	2001	2001 年 1 月 16 日
10	1	31	2001	2001 年 2 月 1 日
11—14	12	15	2001	2001 年 12 月 16 日
15	12	31	2001	2002 年 1 月 1 日
16	2	15	2001	2001 年 2 月 16 日
17	2	28	2004	2004 年 2 月 29 日
18	2	28	2001	2001 年 3 月 1 日
19	2	29	2004	2004 年 3 月 1 日
20	2	29	2001	不可能
21—22	2	30	2001	不可能

# Exercise (consider from another point)

- Equivalent class set

D1={Date:  $1 \leq \text{Date} \leq 27$ }

D2= {Date: Date=28}

D3={Date: Date=29}

D4={Date: Date=30}

D5={Date: Date=31}

M1={Month: 30 days}

M2={Month: 31 days, except December}

M3={Month: December}

M4={Month: February}

Y1={Year: is leap year}

Y2={Year: is not leap year}

✓ 5 4 2

✓

✓

# 13 Test cases of NextDate

# BVA VS. EP VS. DT

- 边界值分析

基于取值域, 不识别数据或逻辑关系;

很容易自动化实现, 设计工作量小;

生成的测试用例数比较多, 测试用例执行时间长。

边界  
值  
测

- 等价类技术

考虑数据依赖关系, 标识等价类时需要更多的判断和技巧;

等价类标识出以后的处理也是机械的;

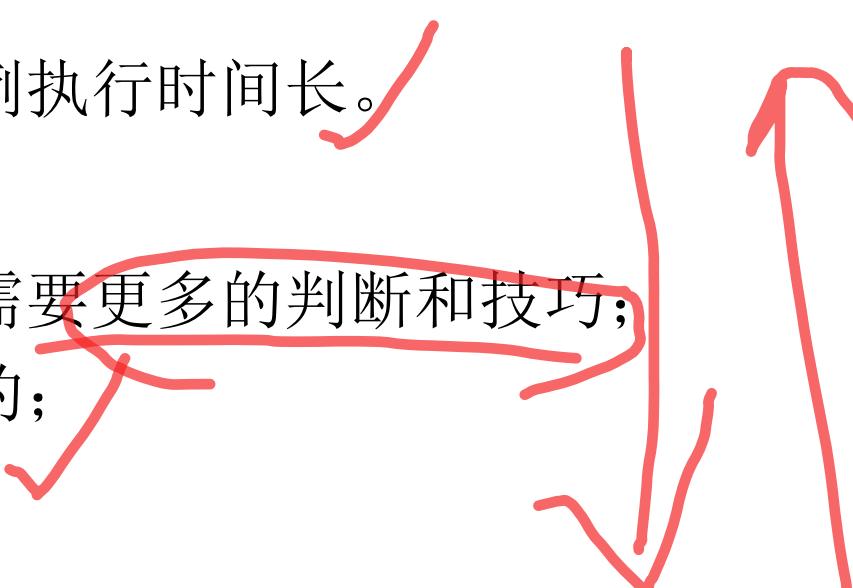
设计工作量和测试用例数属中等。

- 决策表技术

考虑数据的逻辑依赖关系;

所得测试用例可以是完备的, 测试数量在一定意义上讲是最少的;

需要通过多次迭代, 设计工作量很大。





# Black Box Testing Techniques

- Boundary Value Analysis
- Equivalence Partitioning
- Decision Table
- Cause-Effect Graph
- Combinatorial Test